

Spring 2014

Pols 385—American Politics
Course Time: T/R 3:00-4:15 PM
WEB 103

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Course Overview

This course will introduce several topics in America Politics relating to institutions, policies, and politics. Students will come to understand key concepts and debates in American Politics.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Regular attendance and active and engaged participation
- 2) Present material during two class periods
- 3) Write an analysis of the work presented
- 4) Give a presentation of your final project
- 5) Write a final paper of your project

Course Book Requirement:

Card, *Ender's Game* (ISBN 0812550706)
Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th Ed.) University of Chicago Press, 2007.

****Other course materials will be available on Laulima****

The Fine Print:

Using your electronic devices for classroom activities only. Please respect your fellow classmates as well as your instructor.

Classroom Climate Statement: This course will include challenging issues and ideas. Coming from different global spaces, ethnicities, educational experiences, and varying backgrounds, we all ascribe to diverse viewpoints. No one should be feel intimidated when expressing one's views. In our endeavor to create an open and safe environment for fluid discussions, it is imperative that we refrain from mixing intellectual argument with personal attacks.

Plagiarism: Plagiarized work will be failed work. Presenting someone else's words and ideas as your own without giving that person credit is plagiarism. Cutting and pasting from a website, book, article, journal, or anywhere else without citation is plagiarism. Paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is mislead as to the source, or submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved is plagiarism. In your various written assignments you are welcome to draw from outside sources and consult with your classmates, however any ideas of others must be fully and properly cited in

your writing. Refer to chapter seven in the Turabian Style Manual for further information. Plagiarism is cheating. Academic dishonesty is punishable by grade reduction, course failure, and expulsion. If you have any question about doing written work or some personal issue (life happens sometimes) that may affect how you do your work, please **talk to me before your work is due**. We can work something out together. **Communicate, communicate, communicate**. If you have any questions, refer to the UHM Student Conduct Code:

www.hawaii.edu/eil/students/plagiarism.html

Accessibility Statement: If you require specific disability-related accommodations of any kind, please contact me privately. I am committed to making this class accessible to all students. The KOKUA program on campus (956-7511) is located on the ground floor of the Student Services Center. They coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Computer Labs: You may find computer labs in the Sinclair and Hamilton Libraries, Keller Hall, Saunders Hall, and Crawford Hall. Check either website for availability and locations:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/itslab/index.htm>

<http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/pages/tech/lab/labschedules.html>

Assignments

Lead two class discussions: During two class sessions, you will lead the class discussion. Initially you will provide the class with a brief introduction and background of both the writer as well as the work assigned for that class. The content of your presentation should include the thesis and questions in the work, and define new or unfamiliar concepts and terms. In order to provoke a fruitful class discussion, you should develop several critical questions. Be ready to provide your own analysis of these questions. Also, you should **include at least two outside materials** that support your analysis, to include: radio show clip, YouTube clip, poem, image, song, performance, film clips, cartoons, etc. You must contact the instructor with your two outside sources one week prior to your presentation. Finally, you will **write a 4-5 page paper** of the material you presented that includes the two outside sources in your analysis. This paper is **due one week from your presentation**.

***Follow the paper guidelines for all papers in this class. Late papers receive ½ credit.**

Final Project Paper:

Follow the process of a current bill at the state legislature. Research the background of the bill. Who does it impact in what ways? What is at stake for whom? Have similar bills been introduced in previous years? Why have they yet to become law? Interview anyone who may have requested the bill (not from the legislature) as well as committee members who first read the bill. Also, interview any group, organization, or individuals who either support or oppose the bill. Finally, write a 20-page paper detailing the history of the issue, the life of the bill, your interviews, as well as your analysis of the bill and the issue(s) it seeks to address. **This final paper is due Thursday, May 8 before Midnight. No Exceptions.**

Final Project Presentation:

During your formal, final presentation you will present your research findings. You will have no more than 15 minutes. Limit your reliance on outside materials, such as video, to no more than two minutes. This is your time to present your work to the class. Be sure to practice your presentation aloud to an audience before your scheduled presentation. Provide a final slide that offers a bibliography for the presentation. You will be graded on content and style.

*****All Writing Assignments*****

The objective for these writing assignments is for you to develop your writing and analytic skills. Each paper will be graded for content as well grammar and style. It is important for you to develop these skills because you will use them in every discipline. Each paper must be double-spaced, using a 12-point font, with one-inch margins, include page numbers, and a title page. Each paper should use correct citations according to the Turabian Style Manual. No exceptions.

Attendance & Participation:

Your daily participation in class is determined by your participation in class discussions as well as your preparedness for every class. You must show you have completed all of the assigned reading each class period by engaging in each discussion. Silent attendance will not add points to your participation grade. Questions and comments on a regular basis will ensure full participation points. If you are absent more than 3 class periods your final grade will drop one letter grade.

Class Discussions 2X	Class Discussion Papers 2X	Final Project Presentation	*Final Project Paper	Participation & Attendance
5% each=10%	10% each=20%	20%	30%	20%
No make-ups for missed discussion	Due 1 week after presentation Late paper less one letter grade	No make-ups for missed presentations	Late Papers ½ Credit	Absent >3 for ANY reason Less 1 letter grade

Note: All final paper assignments must be completed to receive a grade for the final paper. All assignments are underlined in the Class Schedule below. They are due before class that day in your Laulima Dropbox. Bonus: Complete all final project assignments on time to receive plus ½ letter grade on the final grade.

Computer Labs: Sinclair and Hamilton Libraries, Keller Hall, Saunders Hall, and Crawford Hall. <http://www.hawaii.edu/itslab/index.htm>
<http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/pages/tech/lab/labschedules.html>

I reserve the right to make amendments to the syllabus at any time during the course of the semester.

Class Schedule

Week 1 American Foundations

14 Jan Day 1: Introductions & Syllabus, Declaration of Independence

16 Jan Day 2: U.S. Constitution - quiz

Assignment 1: Become familiar with the Hawaii State Legislature's website:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Week 2

21 Jan Day 1: Federalist Papers: Articles 1-14, 51, 84

23 Jan Day 2: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America Pt.1* (selections: Chapters 6-8, 11-16, 18)

Hawaii State Legislature Bill Intro Cutoff

Week 3 Liberal Political Economy

28 Jan Day 1: Mill, "On Liberty"

30 Jan Day 2: Locke, "On Property"

Assignment 2: Choose 3 bills. Write 1-2 pages on why you selected them.

Week 4

4 Feb Day 1: Read the opinions for both cases: *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pac. R. Co.* **AND** *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission*;

In class: Film: *The Corporation*

6 Feb Day 2: *The Corporation*, cont.

Assignment 3: Write 3-4 pages on the history of one bill.

Week 5 Power & Punishment, and Difference & Discipline

11 Feb Day 1: MacKenzie, "Power"

13 Feb Day 2: Scott, "Deconstructing Equality versus Difference"

Week 6

18 Feb Day 1: Foucault, *Discipline & Punish* pt 1 (3-72)

20 Feb Day 2: Foucault, *Discipline & Punish* pt 2 (73-134)

Assignment 4: Provide a list of interviewees. Provide 7-10 questions for interviews.

Week 7

25 Feb Day 1: Foucault, *Discipline & Punish* pt 3 (135-230)

27 Feb Day 2: Foucault, *Discipline & Punish* pt 4 (231-308)

Week 8 Race and institutions

4 Mar Day 1: Wacquant, "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration," **AND** Sonoda, "A Nation Incarcerated," **AND** Karasuda, "A Genealogy of Punishment in Hawaii:

The Public Hanging of Chief Kamanawa II'

6 Mar Day 2: Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, Intro ch1

Week 9

11 Mar Day 1: Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* ch 2-3 **AND** Brodtkin, "How the Jews Became White"

13 Mar Day 2: Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* ch 4-5 **AND** *Brown v. Plata (2011)*

Week 10

18 Mar Day 1: Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* ch 6 **AND** Harris, Cheryl I. "Whiteness as property." Harv. L. Rev. 106 (1992): 1707.

20 Mar Day 2: *Endgame: AIDS in Black America*,

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/endgame-aids-in-black-america/>

Assignment 5: Submit notes and summaries of interviews. Minimum of three.

***SPRING BREAK* March 24-28**

Week 11 Skills Building

1 Apr Day 1: **MEET AT HAMILTON** Library Workshop: UHML Online/Resources

3 Apr Day 2: **MEET AT HAMILTON** Library Workshop: Sources/Citation/Writing

Week 13 National Borders, Labor, Immigration

8 Apr Day 1: Brown, *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty* (ch 1, 2) Film: *Sleep Dealers*

Assignment 6: Submit an annotated bibliography

10 Apr Day 2: Film: *Sleep Dealers*, cont.

Week 14 Alternative Political texts

15 Apr Day 1: *Ender's Game* (Intro, 1-153)

17 Apr Day 2: *Ender's Game* (154-324)

Assignment 7: Submit 2-page summary of the hearings and transcripts.

Week 15 Projects

22 Apr Day 1: Skills building workshop: Citations, Plagiarism, Writing & Presenting Effectively

24 Apr Day 2: Workshop rough drafts; bring two copies

Assignment 8: Rough drafts

Week 16

29 Apr Day 1: Presentations

1 May Day 2: Presentations

Week 17

6 May Day 1: Presentations

8 May Day 2: NO CLASS; FINAL PAPERS DUE

Thursday, May 8 -Final Due No Later Than 5 p.m.